

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejections and further examination are requested.

A number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification. It is submitted that no new matter has been added to the application via such amendments.

The drawings have been objected to as including a number improper reference characters. Regarding the reference characters mentioned in the objection, except for elements 403-406 and 40, it is noted that the substitute specification filed on October 28, 2003 includes amendments that correct the issues pointed out by the Examiner. Regarding elements 403-406 and 40, the above-mentioned amendments to the specification address these issues. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16, 20, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 70 and 72 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 63, 64 and 66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okude (US 6,175,802) in view of Yoshida (US 5,699,056). Claims 8 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okude in view of Ito (US 6,256,578). Claim 68 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okude in view of Kakihara (US 5,293,163).

Claims 8 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, the rejection of claims 8 and 28 is moot.

Claims 63, 64, 66 and 68 have been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention, as recited therein, from the references relied upon in the respective rejections. As a result, the rejections are submitted to no longer be applicable to the amended claims for the following reasons.

Claim 63 is patentable over the combination of Okude and Yoshida, since claim 63 recites a map display device including, in part, a map data arranging part for creating at least one 3D object model by interpreting communications information and object model display information provided by an object model display information storage part, and arranging the at least one 3D object model at a position on a map image based on the communications information; and a display part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image

and the at least one 3D object model obtained by the map data arranging part, wherein the communications information includes under-construction information including information indicating a road under construction, and the map data arranging part arranges the at least one 3D object model representing construction in a region of the map image corresponding to the road under construction. The combination of Okude and Yoshida fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 63.

Okude discloses a navigation system including an operation and processing unit 1-1, a display device 1-2, a map database unit 1-3, a voice input/output device 1-4, and an input device 1-5. The display device 1-2 is a unit for displaying graphic information generated in the operation and processing unit 1-1 and includes a CRT or a liquid crystal display device. The display device 1-2 is used to display a stereoscopic map which includes typographical features, such as a mountain 4-2. The display device 1-2 is also used to display roads 4-3 and a symbol 4-4 indicating a current location of a vehicle in which the navigation system is mounted on the stereoscopic map. (See column 4, lines 27-53; column 7, lines 9-24; and Figures 1 and 4).

In the rejection, Okude is relied upon as disclosing at least one 3D object model. However, as illustrated in Figure 4 and discussed in the abstract of Okude, the display device 1-2 displays the map stereoscopically. Okude does not disclose or suggest at least one 3D object model on the map. Therefore, Okude fails to disclose or suggest the map data arranging part and the display part of claim 63. As a result, it is necessary for Yoshida to disclose or suggest these features in order for the combination to render claim 63 obvious.

As for Yoshida, it discloses a traffic information system including an on-vehicle apparatus 3 including a display device 25. (See column 9, line 56 – column 11, line 25 and Figures 1 and 2). However, it is apparent that Yoshida also fails to disclose or suggest at least one 3D object model as recited in claim 63. Therefore, Yoshida necessarily fails to disclose or suggest the map data arranging part and the display part of claim 63. Since Yoshida fails to address the deficiency of Okude, it is apparent that the combination of Yoshida and Okude fails to render claim 63 obvious.

As for Ito and Kakihara, they are relied upon in the rejections as disclosing (1) information about an object model being describing in an object-oriented interpreter language and (2) a navigation apparatus that is capable of searching for parking lots that have available

parking spaces, respectively. However, it is apparent that Ito and Kakihara both fail to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features of claim 63.

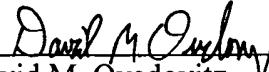
Regarding claims 66 and 68, they are patentable over the references relied upon in the rejections for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 63. That is, claims 66 and 68 each recite, in part, a map data arranging part for creating at least one 3D object model by interpreting communications information and object model display information provided by an object model display information storage part, and arranging the at least one 3D object model at a position on a map image based on the communications information; and a display part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one 3D object model obtained by the map data arranging part, which features are not disclosed or suggested by the references.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 15, 16, 20, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 63, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejections. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 15, 16, 20, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 63, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 15, 16, 20, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 63, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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